

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kerry White, on February 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)  
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Bob Brown (R)  
Rep. Virginia Court (D)  
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)  
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)  
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)  
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)  
Rep. Mark Noland (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 344, 2/2/2017; HB 337, 2/2/2017  
Executive Action on: HB 211

00:00:59 Chair White

**HEARING ON HB 337**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:46 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 337, Require water reservation report by 2026.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:02:00 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:04:07 Rep. Gunderson  
00:04:57 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
00:05:14 Rep. Flynn  
00:05:42 Millie Heffner, DNRC  
00:06:15 Chair White  
00:06:57 Rep. Hamlett

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:07:41 Rep. Hamlett

**HEARING ON HB 344**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:09:01 Rep. Geraldine Custer (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 344, Provide funding for coal bed methane protection program.

00:09:49 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:12:09 Don Sasse, Coal Bed Methane Protection Act (CBMPA)  
00:17:07 Jeff Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

[EXHIBIT\(nah26a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah26a02\)](#)

00:18:09 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:18:58 Laurie Zeller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:19:23 Rep. Flynn  
00:20:02 Rep. Custer  
00:20:33 Laurie Zeller, DNRC  
00:20:55 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:21:43 Chair White  
00:22:17 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:24:05 Rep. Gunderson  
00:27:51 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:28:16 Rep. Court  
00:30:41 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:30:58 Rep. Windy Boy  
00:32:01 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:32:54 Chair White  
00:34:25 Laurie Zeller, DNRC  
00:34:57 Rep. Fleming  
00:37:48 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:38:31 Chair White  
00:38:57 Jeff Tiberi, MACD  
00:40:20 Rep. Court  
00:40:32 Chair White  
00:40:47 Rep. Flynn  
00:41:19 Jeff Tiberi, MACD  
00:41:33 Don Sasse, CBMPA  
00:42:06 Rep. Manzella  
00:42:25 Rep. Custer

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:42:51 Rep. Custer  
  
00:46:56 Chair White  
  
00:48:52 Recess  
01:10:56 Reconvene  
  
01:10:57 Rep. Windy Boy left the meeting

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 211**

01:11:07 Chair White  
  
01:11:20\_ **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Manzella moved that **HB 211 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Windy Boy voted by proxy.  
  
01:12:10 Chair White

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:12:49

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Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nah26aad.pdf](#))